THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (c) Advertisements are issued from time to time in major national and regional newspapers to build awareness among the consumers about the advantages of processed food. Such advertisements also educate people about the processed foods safe and permitted preservatives as indicated on the label.

Payment of charges by CGHS beneficiaries

1884. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Government servants covered under Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) are required to pay hospital charges in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the names of the hospitals in Mumbai which made Government servants pay hospital charges;

(c) the action proposed to be taken against those hospitals; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE: (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The Government servants i.e. the serving beneficiaries under CGHS are required to pay the charges of private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS for the procedure /test carried out. The same is reimbursed by the respective Departments as per CGHS approved rates provided the treatment is taken with permission. However, in case of emergency, the recognised private hospital shall not refuse admission or demand advance from the beneficiary and shall provide credit facilities to the concerned patient on the production of valid CGHS card.

HIV infection through blood banks

1885. SHRI N.K.PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government introduced any safety measures to check the

resourced blood to the blood banks of medical colleges against HIV infection;

(b) whether any incident of HIV infection to a child at SAT Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram consequent to the blood donation brought to the notice of Government and whether Government propose to introduce any stipulation to insist antigen test for blood donors for taking precaution against HIV infection; and

(c) whether Government propose to implement any specific programme to eliminate hospital acquired HIV infection and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) All licensed blood banks in the country, including that of medical colleges are required to screen donated blood units mandatorily for HIV, Hepatitis B and C, Syphilis and Malaria before they are transfused to the patient.

State Blood Transfusion Counsil is regularly monitoring the screening status of HIV and other mandatory infection of all the blood banks in their respective States/UTs.

Further in order to ensure strict adherence to norms in the blood banks, the licenses of the blood banks are renewed after due verification of the availabitiy of the requisite infrastructure with the blood banks as precribed in Drug and Cosmetic Rules.

(b) A child was detected to be HIV positive one year after he received blood transfusion in SAT Hospital in Thiruvananthpuram. On cross checking the records at the Blood Bank it is seen that the donors at the time of blood donation were negative for HIV.

The Government has not proposed to introduce any stipulation to insist for antigen tests for blood donors.

(c) The Government has initiated specific programmes to eliminate hospital acquired HIV infection by various measures such as, Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), Hospital Waste Management, use of sterile needle and syringes and use of disposal gloves, etc. The detailed guidelines of the programme have been published in the "Manual for Control of Hospitals Association Infections" which has been circulated to all the State AIDS control societies for implementation.